

APPLICATION FOR ETHICAL APPROVAL

In order for research to result in benefit and minimise risk of harm, it must be conducted ethically. A researcher may not be covered by the University's insurance if ethical approval has not been obtained prior to commencement.

The University follows the OECD Frascati manual definition of **research activity**: "creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications". As such this covers activities undertaken by members of staff, postgraduate research students, and both taught postgraduate and undergraduate students working on dissertations/projects.

The individual undertaking the research activity is known as the "principal researcher".

Ethical approval is not required for routine audits, performance reviews, quality assurance studies, testing within normal educational requirements, and literary or artistic criticism.

Please read the notes for guidance before completing ALL sections of the form.

This form must be completed and approved prior to undertaking any research activity. Please see Checklist for details of process for different categories of application.

Delete the Guidance Notes at the end of the form BEFORE submitting your application

SECTION A: About You (Principal Researcher)

1	Full Name:	Anthony Richard Smith			
2	Tick all boxes which apply:	Member of staff:	☐	Honorary research fellow:	☐
3	Undergraduate Student	☐	Taught Postgraduate Student	☒	Postgraduate Research Student
4	Institute/Academic Discipline/Centre:	UWTSD Trinity St Davids			
5	Campus:	Swansea			
6	E-mail address:	1704559@student.uwtsd.ac.uk			
7	Contact Telephone Number:	07377 128427			
For students:					
8	Student Number:	1704559			
9	Programme of Study:	Software Engineering			
10	Director of Studies/Supervisor:				

SECTION B: Approval for Research Activity

1	Has the research activity received approval in principle? (please check the Guidance Notes as to the appropriate approval process for different levels of research by different categories of individual)	YES	☐	NO	☒
					Date
2	If Yes, please indicate source of approval (and date where known):	Research Degrees Committee	☐		
3	Approval in principle must be obtained from the relevant source prior to seeking ethical approval	Institute Research Committee	☐		
4		Other (write in)	☐		

SECTION C: Internal and External Ethical Guidance Materials

	Please list the core ethical guidance documents that have been referred to during the completion of this form (including any discipline-specific codes of research ethics, and also any specific ethical guidance relating to the proposed methodology). Please tick to confirm that your research proposal adheres to these codes and guidelines.	
1	UWTSD Research Ethics & Integrity Code of Practice	☒
2	UWTSD Research Data Management Policy	☒
3		☐

SECTION D: External Collaborative Research Activity

1	Does the research activity involve collaborators outside of the University?	YES	☐	NO	☒
2	If Yes, please provide the name of the external organisation and name and contact details for the main contact person and confirmation this person has consented to their personal data being shared as part of this collaboration.				
3	Institution	N/A			
4	Contact person name	N/A			
5	Contact person e-mail address	N/A			
6	Has this individual consented to sharing their details on this form?	YES	☐	NO	☒
7	Are you in receipt of a KESS scholarship?	YES	☐	NO	☒
8	Is your research externally funded	YES	☐	NO	☒
9	Are you specifically employed to undertake this research in either a paid or voluntary capacity?	Voluntary	YES	☐	NO
10		Employed	YES	☐	NO
11	Is the research being undertaken within an existing UWTSD Athrofa Professional Learning Partnership (APLP)	If YES then the permission question below does not need to be answered.	YES	☐	NO
12	Permission to undertake the research has been provided by the partner organisation	(If YES attach copy) If NO the application cannot continue	YES	☐	NO

Where research activity is carried out in collaboration with an external organisation

13	Does this organisation have its own ethics approval system?	YES	☐	NO	☒
14	If Yes, please attach a copy of any final approval (or interim approval) from the organisation				

SECTION E: Details of Research Activity

1	Indicative title:	Analysing and Combating Deepfake Technology		
2	Proposed start date:	15 / 2 / 2022	Proposed end date:	29 / 3 / 2022
3	Introduction to the Research (maximum 300 words) Ensure that you write for a Non-Specialist Audience when outlining your response to the three points below: • Purpose of Research Activity • Proposed Research Question • Aims of Research Activity • Objectives of Research Activity Demonstrate, briefly, how Existing Research has informed the proposed activity and explain • What the research activity will add to the body of knowledge • How it addresses an area of importance.			
4	Purpose of Research Activity The purpose of the research is to ascertain the reasons and intentions of why individuals implement deepfake algorithms. The research will also identify the differences in certain media manipulations and whether photoshopping images is for recreational purposes or to infringe the privacy and security of targeted individuals. As technology has improved and software has allowed media modifications to become easier to implement, certain structures need to be recognised to allow for easier detections. (this box should expand as you type)			
5	Research Question The research carried out will attempt to answer the following questions: • Can high quality, photo realistic deepfake manipulations be detected? • Can deepfake algorithms lead to misuse and crime? • Can facial imperfections enable deepfake detection? • What have other researchers done to curtail the problem of deepfaking? • What the solution to detection will be, whether it is an innovative idea or approving a system already implemented. • Is the solution to detecting media manipulations constructive and beneficial? • Who will gain from deepfake detection and why? (this box should expand as you type)			
6	Aims of Research Activity The aim of the overall project is to create and test detection software that will produce evidence of manipulated video or still imagery. This will be possible through the examination of previously created software and research carried out by others. To further reinforce the demand to expose media fabrication, the author of the report will examine software applications that supply the tools for deepfaking. (this box should expand as you type)			

7	Objectives of Research Activity The main objective of research is to obtain a working body of code that will aid in the identification of manipulated digital media. In addition to the code, further knowledge gained by the research required to complete the project will inspire further research possibilities and assist in discovering unknown concepts. On completion, a desired outcome would be to allow additional questions to consistently emerge that supports the evolution of the product and help the creator to gain further knowledge and understandings. (this box should expand as you type)
8	Proposed methods (maximum 600 words) Provide a brief summary of all the methods that may be used in the research activity, making it clear what specific techniques may be used. If methods other than those listed in this section are deemed appropriate later, additional ethical approval for those methods will be needed.
9	To carry out the required research needed to successfully complete the project, time management is an important factor of the research structure. The use of Gantt charts to meticulously plan each section of the project will be utilised to ensure time frames are achieved. The S.M.A.R.T objectives will also be employed to provide guidance towards specific goals and define parameters that are needed to guarantee a positive outcome. The Waterfall project management framework will be selected to encompass the work plan. As an individual working solely on the project, certain steps will need to be completed before it is possible to move to the next stage of the project. Working to a linear strategy is more logical as careful planning of each task is necessary, due to the lack of team support. Regarding the research methods that will be employed to gather the data required for analyse will be a combination of both quantitative and qualitative sources. To research outcomes produced by neural network testing, graphs and tables would be better utilised to explain those findings. On completion of the code, tests and measurements will be carried out to define the results as successful or a failure. Gauging public opinion on the impact of deepfaking can be an ideal way to measure the need for such detection and whether the effects of manipulation will / can hinder lives. This will require the collection of specific information, developed in the form of a questionnaire. The questionnaire can either be a Likert scale or multiple choice. However, open-ended questions allow the respondents to supply actual opinions instead of being influenced by the questioner to a certain answer. To produce satisfactory results from the survey, it would require many respondents to supply information, and this can be achieved by employing online applications such as google forms or SurveyMonkey. The participants of the study would be narrowed down to Facebook friends and family and / or students and lecturers from UWSTD Trinity St Davids Swansea campus. Other methods of data collection will include case studies using volunteers to test the software, and any other non-human-input tests carried out on the code. All respondents will be over the age of 18 and will be required to sign a permission document, allowing the gathered data to be used. After the theoretical research has been completed and considerable knowledge on the subject has been ascertained, research and choices will need to be made into the application tools that will be used to create the code. Neural networks will be playing a significant role in creating deepfake detection software especially with the involvement of GANs (Generative Adversarial Networks). C++ will be one to research, however, Python comprises of multiple libraries and frameworks that includes NumPy, SciPy and TensorFlow. Those specific libraries are utilised in scientific calculations and are essential for machine and deep learning projects. Although Python has been identified as an easier language to use and has several other benefitting characteristics like simple syntax and testing without implementation, there are still concerns. It is a software that has never been exploited before by the author of the research proposal and will require learning as the project progresses. However, further research into other programming software will be made to ensure the right application is applied to the project. (this box should expand as you type)

10	Location of research activity Identify all locations where research activity will take place.
11	• Swansea • Carmarthen (this box should expand as you type)
12	Research activity outside of the UK If research activity will take place overseas, you are responsible for ensuring that local ethical considerations are complied with and that the relevant permissions are sought. Specify any local guidelines (e.g. from local professional associations/learned societies/universities) that exist and whether these involve any ethical stipulations beyond those usual in the UK (provide details of any licenses or permissions required). Also specify whether there are any specific ethical issues raised by the local context in which the research activity is taking place, for example, particular cultural and/or legal sensitivities or vulnerabilities of participants.
13	N/A (this box should expand as you type)

14	Use of documentation not in the public domain: Are any documents NOT publicly available?	NO	☒
		YES	☐
15	If Yes, please provide details here of how you will gain access to specific documentation that is not in the public domain and that this is in accordance with prevailing data protection law of the country in question and England and Wales. N/A (this box should expand as you type)		

SECTION F: Scope of Research Activity

1	Will the research activity include:	YES	NO
2	Use of a questionnaire or similar research instrument?	☒	☐
3	Use of interviews?	☐	☒
4	Use of diaries?	☐	☒
5	Participant observation with their knowledge?	☒	☐
6	Participant observation without their knowledge?	☐	☒
7	Use of video or audio recording?	☒	☐
8	Access to personal or confidential information without the participants' specific consent?	☐	☒
9	Administration of any questions, test stimuli, presentation that may be experienced as physically, mentally or emotionally harmful / offensive?	☐	☒
10	Performance of any acts which may cause embarrassment or affect self-esteem?	☐	☒
11	Investigation of participants involved in illegal activities?	☐	☒
12	Use of procedures that involve deception?	☐	☒
13	Administration of any substance, agent or placebo?	☐	☒
14	Working with live vertebrate animals?	☐	☒

15	Other primary data collection methods, please explain in this box For example, 'focus groups'. Please indicate the type of data collection method(s) in this box and tick the accompany box.		
16	Details of any other primary data collection method: N/A (this box should expand as you type)	☐	☒

If NO to every question, then the research activity is (ethically) low risk and **may** be exempt from **some** of the following sections (please refer to Guidance Notes).

If YES to any question, then no research activity should be undertaken until full ethical approval has been obtained.

SECTION G: Intended Participants

1	Who are the intended participants:	YES	NO
2	Students or staff at the University?	☒	☐
3	Adults (over the age of 18 and competent to give consent)?	☒	☐
4	Vulnerable adults?	☐	☒
5	Children and Young People under the age of 18? (Consent from Parent, Carer or Guardian will be required)	☐	☒
6	Prisoners?	☐	☒
7	Young offenders?	☐	☒
8	Those who could be considered to have a particularly dependent relationship with the investigator or a gatekeeper?	☐	☒
9	People engaged in illegal activities?	☐	☒
10	Others (please identify specifically any group who may be unable to give consent) please indicate here and tick the appropriate box.		
11	Other – please indicate here: N/A (this box should expand as you type)	☐	☒

12	Participant numbers and source Provide an estimate of the expected number of participants. How will you identify participants and how will they be recruited?	
13	How many participants are expected?	Between 20 – 50 participants (this box should expand as you type)
14	Who will the participants be?	Facebook members, students and lecturers of UWTSD Swansea campus (this box should expand as you type)
15	How will you identify the participants?	A written form including name and age will be included. (this box should expand as you type)

16	Information for participants:	YES	NO	N/A
17	Will you describe the main research procedures to participants in advance, so that they are informed about what to expect?	☒	☐	☐
18	Will you tell participants that their participation is voluntary?	☒	☐	☐
19	Will you obtain written consent for participation?	☒	☐	☐
20	Will you explain to participants that refusal to participate in the research will not affect their treatment or education (if relevant)?	☒	☐	☐
21	If the research is observational, will you ask participants for their consent to being observed?	☒	☐	☐
22	Will you tell participants that they may withdraw from the research at any time and for any reason?	☒	☐	☐
23	With questionnaires, will you give participants the option of omitting questions they do not want to answer?	☒	☐	☐
24	Will you tell participants that their data will be treated with full confidentiality and that, if published, it will not be identifiable as theirs?	☒	☐	☐
25	Will you debrief participants at the end of their participation, in a way appropriate to the type of research undertaken?	☒	☐	☐
26	If NO to any of above questions, please give an explanation			
27	N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>			

28	Information for participants:	YES	NO	N/A
29	Will participants be paid?	☐	☒	☐
30	Is specialist electrical or other equipment to be used with participants?	☒	☐	☐
31	Are there any financial or other interests to the investigator or University arising from this study?	☐	☒	☐
32	Will the research activity involve deliberately misleading participants in any way, or the partial or full concealment of the specific study aims?	☐	☒	☐
33	If YES to any question, please provide full details			
34	Relating to question 30 – camera or video footage may be required during practical testing to assist comparable results. Deepfake relies on photo or video manipulations and the same is required to detect it. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>			

SECTION H: Anticipated Risks

1	Outline any anticipated risks that may adversely affect any of the participants, the researchers and/or the University, and the steps that will be taken to address them. If you have completed a full risk assessment (for example as required by a laboratory, or external research collaborator) you may append that to this form.						
2	Full risk assessment completed and appended?		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>☒</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	☐	No	☒
Yes	☐						
No	☒						
3	Risks to participants For example: emotional distress, financial disclosure, physical harm, transfer of personal data, sensitive organisational information						
4	Risk to Participant:	How will you mitigate the Risk to Participant					
	N/A	N/A					

	(this box should expand as you type)	(this box should expand as you type)		
5	If research activity may include sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting topics (e.g. sexual activity, drug use) or issues likely to disclose information requiring further action (e.g. criminal activity), give details of the procedures to deal with these issues, including any support/advice (e.g. helpline numbers) to be offered to participants. Note that where applicable, consent procedures should make it clear that if something potentially or actually illegal is discovered in the course of a project, it may need to be disclosed to the proper authorities			
	N/A (this box should expand as you type)			
6	Risks to investigator For example: personal safety, physical harm, emotional distress, risk of accusation of harm/impropriety, conflict of interest			
	Risk to Investigator: N/A (this box should expand as you type)	How will you mitigate the Risk to Investigator: N/A (this box should expand as you type)		
7	University/institutional risks For example: adverse publicity, financial loss, data protection			
	Risk to University: N/A (this box should expand as you type)	How will you mitigate the Risk to University: N/A (this box should expand as you type)		
8	Disclosure and Barring Service			
9	If the research activity involves children or vulnerable adults, a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate must be obtained before any contact with such participants.	YES	NO	N/A
10	Does your research require you to hold a current DBS Certificate?	☐	☐	☒

SECTION I: Feedback, Consent and Confidentiality

1	Feedback What de-briefing and feedback will be provided to participants, how will this be done and when?
	Information will be highlighted on the online survey for participants to read. Feedback and de-briefing will be given after the practical tests are concluded. (this box should expand as you type)
2	Informed consent Describe the arrangements to inform potential participants, before providing consent, of what is involved in participating. Describe the arrangements for participants to provide full consent before data collection begins. If gaining consent in this way is inappropriate, explain how consent will be obtained and recorded in accordance with prevailing data protection legislation.
	All information required will be on the survey and orally given at the time of the practical tests. If any participant requires further information, the chance of contact will be given via email address. (this box should expand as you type)
3	Confidentiality / Anonymity Set out how anonymity of participants and confidentiality will be ensured in any outputs. If anonymity is not being offered, explain why this is the case.
	Online surveys require log in to access the data, only the author of the research proposal will have the means to access this data. Practical tests will be carried out in a private room, whether on campus or at the authors residence.

(this box should expand as you type)

SECTION J: Data Protection and Storage

In completing this section refer to the University's Research Data Management Policy and the extensive resources on the University's Research Data Management web pages (<http://uwtsd.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/>).

1	Does the research activity involve personal data (as defined by the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 "GDPR" and the Data Protection Act 2018 "DPA")?	YES	NO
	<i>"Personal data" means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.</i>	X	
2	If YES, provide a description of the data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
	Only name and age are required (this box should expand as you type)		
3	Does it involve special category data (as defined by the GDPR)?	YES	NO
	<i>"Special category data" means sensitive personal data consisting of information as to the data subjects' – (a) racial or ethnic origin, (b) political opinions, (c) religious beliefs or other beliefs of a similar nature, (d) membership of a trade union (within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992), (e) physical or mental health or condition, (f) sexual life, (g) genetics, (h) biometric data (as used for ID purposes),</i>	☐	X
4	If YES, provide a description of the special category data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
	N/A (this box should expand as you type)		

5	Will the research activity involve storing personal data and/or special category data on one of the following:	YES	NO
6	Manual files (i.e. in paper form)?	☐	☒
7	University computers?	☒	☐
8	Private company computers?	☐	☒
9	Home or other personal computers?	☒	☐
10	Laptop computers/ CDs/ Portable disk-drives/ memory sticks?	☐	☒
11	"Cloud" storage or websites?	☒	☐
12	Other – specify:	☐	☒
13	For all stored data, explain the measures in place to ensure the security of the data collected, data confidentiality, including details of password protection, encryption, anonymisation and pseudonymisation:		

	All forms of data storage will be protected by passwords and user logins. University computers and personal computers will also contain firewalls and antivirus software for further data protection. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
14	All Data Storage		
15	Will the research activity involve any of the following activities:	YES	NO
16	Electronic transfer of data in any form?	☐	☒
17	Sharing of data with others at the University?	☐	☒
18	Sharing of data with other organisations?	☐	☒
19	Export of data outside the European Union or importing of data from outside the UK?	☐	☒
20	Use of personal addresses, postcodes, faxes, emails or telephone numbers?	☐	☒
21	Publication of data that might allow identification of individuals?	☐	☒
22	Use of data management system?	☐	☒
23	Data archiving?	☐	☒
24	If YES to any question, please provide full details, explaining how this will be conducted in accordance with the GDPR and DPA (and/or any international equivalent):		
	N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
25	List all who will have access to the data generated by the research activity:		
	Only the author of the project <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
26	List who will have control of, and act as custodian(s) for, data generated by the research activity:		
	Only the author of the project <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
27	Give details of data storage arrangements, including security measures in place to protect the data, where data will be stored, how long for, and in what form. Will data be archived – if so how and if not why not.		
	Online survey will be stored via google forms and practical results will be stored via USB pen and kept in a lock box. Once data is used the pen will be completely formatted. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
28	Please indicate if your data will be stored in the UWTSD Research Data Repository (see https://researchdata.uwtسد.ac.uk/). If so please explain. <i>(Most relevant to academic staff)</i>		
	N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
29	Confirm that you have read the UWTSD guidance on data management (see https://www.uwtسد.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/)	YES	☒
		NO	☐
30	Confirm that you are aware that you need to keep all data until after your research has completed or the end of your funding	YES	☒
		NO	☐

SECTION K: Declaration

31	The information which I have provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have attempted to identify any risks and issues related to the research activity and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants. In submitting this application I hereby confirm that I undertake to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice which is published on the website: https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/		
	Signature of applicant:	Anthony Smith	Date: 11/3/22

For STUDENT Submissions:

32	Director of Studies/Supervisor:		Date:
33	Signature:		

For STAFF Submissions:

34	Academic Director/ Assistant Dean:		Date:
35	Signature:		

Checklist: Please complete the checklist below to ensure that you have completed the form according to the guidelines and attached any required documentation:

☒	I have read the guidance notes supplied before completing the form.
☒	I have completed ALL RELEVANT sections of the form in full.
☒	I confirm that the research activity has received approval in principle
☒	I have attached a copy of final/interim approval from external organisation (where appropriate)
☐	I have attached a full risk assessment (and have NOT completed Section H of this form) (where appropriate) ONLY TICK IF YOU HAVE ATTACHED A FULL RISK ASSESSMENT
☒	I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice.
☒	I understand that before commencing data collection all documents aimed at respondents (including information sheets, consent forms, questionnaires, interview schedules etc.) must be confirmed by the DoS/Supervisor, module tutor or Academic Director.
☒	I have deleted the guidance notes before submitting the PG2 for consideration

RESEARCH STUDENTS AND STAFF ONLY

All communications relating to this application during its processing must be in writing and emailed to pgresearch@uwtsd.ac.uk, with the title 'Ethical Approval' followed by your name. You will be informed of the outcome of your claim by email; therefore it is important that you check your University and personal email accounts regularly.

STUDENTS ON UNDERGRADUATE OR TAUGHT MASTERS PROGRAMMES should submit this form (and receive the outcome) via systems explained to you by the supervisor/module leader.